

This good news is a clear sign that a government which taxes less and spends less taxpayer dollars and spends them wisely can balance its checkbook. These recent record tax revenues are paying down the deficit, but we must do our part by honoring the hard work of the American people and not passing future bloated budgets and tax hikes.

The American people have learned to live within their means; it is time that Washington do the same. That means we do not spend \$22 billion more than we need to or tax Americans \$400 billion more than they deserve. Above all, the government must address the pending entitlement crisis. This is a situation where Congress cannot pass the buck.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

HONORING OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK DANN, U.S. ATTORNEY GREGORY LOCKHART, AND USDA AGENT MARK BARNHART

(Ms. SUTTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, on October 13, Ohio Attorney General Mark Dann, U.S. Attorney Gregory Lockhart, and USDA Agent Mark Barnhart received the 2007 Humane Law Enforcement Award from the Humane Society and the National District Attorneys Association. They were honored with this prestigious award for conducting one of the largest, best coordinated crackdowns on dog fighting in the Nation.

I am extremely proud that my home State of Ohio is taking a lead in cracking down on this vicious blood sport, but this raid also demonstrates the difficulty authorities have of prosecuting offenders under Federal law.

I have introduced the Dog Fighting Prohibition Act, which would strengthen Federal penalties for those participating in dog fighting and broaden the scope of the law to allow prosecution of everyone involved, from spectators to trainers to dealers. We need to do all we can to end what has become a lucrative gambling business; and to accomplish that, we must give our law enforcement officials like Mark Dann, Gregory Lockhart, and Mark Barnhart the tools that they need. I want to thank them and congratulate them on their efforts, and encourage support for the Dog Fighting Prohibition Act.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, fiscal responsibility is the cornerstone of a strong economic plan, and House Republicans are dedicated to ensuring that American taxpayers are getting the best product for their money. Un-

fortunately, I can't say my Democrat colleagues feel the same way.

We are 3 weeks into fiscal year 2008, and for the first time in a long time Congress has not sent the President a single appropriations bill. One of these bills funds our veterans, and they deserve the benefits they were promised; yet politics has taken over the Democrat leadership, and their failure is costing veterans over \$4 billion in new benefits.

The Democrat majority also has failed to deliver on promised earmark transparency that would shed light on every earmark, and we're continuing to see abuses within the system.

At almost every opportunity, the Democrat leadership has increased spending and increased taxes to pay for these spending binges. It's time to get back on track to finding commonsense solutions and stop using taxpayer dollars like it's an unlimited source of money.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Greg Lankler, Staff Assistant, Committee on Appropriations:

OCTOBER 12, 2007.

HON. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for testimony and documents issued by the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by rule VIII.

Sincerely,

GREG LANKLER,
Staff Assistant.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

CONGRATULATING THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON CHAIRING A UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 624) congratulating the State of Israel on chairing a United Nations committee for the first time in history, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 624

Whereas Israel joined the United Nations in 1949, as the 59th member of that organization;

Whereas the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations stated that its objective was to "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war . . . and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small . . .";

Whereas the United Nations has failed to live up to its goal to promote equal rights among states, as enshrined in its charter, in the case of Israel;

Whereas the democratic State of Israel is denied full representation within the United Nations, and its constituent agencies and bodies, yet repressive regimes in violation of United Nations human rights principles are afforded full rights and privileges;

Whereas in May 2000, Israel accepted an invitation to become a temporary member of the United Nations' Western European and Others Group (WEOG), and in May 2004, Israel was granted an indefinite extension of its qualified membership in WEOG;

Whereas since Israel was accepted as part of WEOG in 2000, it has had the right to apply for positions on United Nations committees;

Whereas the State of Israel is the only member of WEOG in a conditional status;

Whereas Israel is excluded from discussions and consultations of WEOG at the United Nations offices in Geneva, Nairobi, Rome, and Vienna;

Whereas Israel has been refused admission to the Asian States Group of the United Nations, thereby being denied the rights and privileges of full membership in the United Nations;

Whereas Israel has submitted its candidacy for membership on the United Nations Security Council for 2019 and hopes to gain the full participation rights in the United Nations to which it is entitled as a sovereign state;

Whereas at the opening of the 61st United Nations General Assembly in 2006, former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated that "supporters of Israel feel that it is harshly judged by standards that are not applied to its enemies . . . and too often this is true, particularly in some UN bodies";

Whereas Israel has played an active role in the international community and within the United Nations;

Whereas Israel already sits on several important committees in the United Nations, and representatives from Israel have served as deputy chairs in the United Nations numerous times;

Whereas Israelis were first elected to notable United Nations positions in 1994, including the high administrative tribunal at the Hague, Vice Chair of the World Health Organization's Executive Committee and the Human Rights Committee, in June 2005 Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Dan Gillerman, was appointed one of the 21 new vice presidents of the General Assembly, and in July 2005, Israel was elected to deputy chairmanship of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC);

Whereas, on June 19, 2007, for the first time since Israel joined the United Nations, an Israeli diplomat, Mr. Ron Adam, Director of the Israeli Foreign Ministry's United Nations Political Affairs Department, was chosen to chair a United Nations committee, the Committee on Program and Coordination (CPC);

Whereas this 33 member body (composed of Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, the Republic of Central Africa, China, Comoros, Cuba, France, Ghana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Pakistan, Portugal, Korea, Russia, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, United States, and Israel) approves the work plan for all United Nations agencies and bodies;

Whereas Israel's first unique appointment to chair a United Nations committee will hopefully encourage the normalization of Israel's bilateral and multilateral relations and challenge future disproportionate United Nations condemnation of Israel;

Whereas anti-Semitic rhetoric and sentiment within United Nations fora have been of grave concern to the United States and other responsible nations;

Whereas United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3379 (1975) concluded that "Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination" and the General Assembly, by a vote of 111-25, revoked Resolution 3379 in 1991 in response to strong leadership by the United States;

Whereas the goals of the 2001 United Nations World Conference Against Racism were undermined by hateful, anti-Jewish rhetoric and anti-Israel political agendas, prompting both Israel and the United States to withdraw their delegations from the Conference;

Whereas, in 2004, at the first United Nations Department of Public Information Seminar on Anti-Semitism, former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan acknowledged that "the United Nations' record on anti-Semitism has at times fallen short of our ideals"; and

Whereas, in 2005, the United Nations held an unprecedented session to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Government and people of the State of Israel on Israel's first ever appointment to chair a United Nations committee;

(2) supports continued expansion of Israel's role at the United Nations;

(3) welcomes recent attempts by the United Nations to address the issue of prevailing anti-Semitism;

(4) calls on the United Nations to officially and publicly condemn anti-Semitic statements made at all United Nations meetings and hold accountable United Nations Member States that make such statements;

(5) urges the members of the United Nations' Western European and Others Group (WEOG) to extend full and permanent membership to Israel, without conditions, until such time as Israel can serve as an effective member of the Asian States Group of the United Nations; and

(6) calls upon United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to continue to work to end any unfair vilification of Israel at the United Nations and ensure Israel's full participation in, and access to, all international fora under United Nations auspices.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and in-

clude extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I want to thank Mr. HASTINGS and Mr. GREEN for their work on this important resolution congratulating the democratic State of Israel for achieving a significant victory in its long and tedious campaign to gain fair treatment at the U.N.

In June, an Israeli diplomat, Mr. Ron Adam, was chosen to chair a critical U.N. committee, the Committee on Policy and Coordination, which is responsible for approving the work plan for all U.N. agencies and bodies. Incredibly, in the entire history of the U.N., this is the first time an Israeli has been granted such a role.

For almost 60 years, since it became a member of the United Nations, Israel has been treated as a second-class citizen among the nations at the U.N. The greatest barrier to fair treatment for Israel has been its inability to achieve normal standing in one of the U.N.'s regional groupings. These groupings control committee assignments and leadership positions throughout the U.N. system.

Though geographically Israel should be a member of the Asia group, a cabal of anti-democratic and anti-Semitic states in that region, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, has conspired to exclude Israel from its rightful membership in that group. Only recently has Israel been granted qualified membership in another U.N. group known as the Western European and Others regional group.

□ 1415

This new status has allowed Israel to begin to obtain U.N. leadership positions. We must build on this momentum. H. Res. 624 does so by demanding that the Western European and Others Group, with which Israel now caucuses at the U.N., remove all remaining restrictions and qualifications on Israel's status as a member of that group. The resolution also expresses support for Israel's campaign to gain a rotational seat on U.N. Security Council.

Once again, Madam Speaker, I congratulate Israel for its election to serve as Chair of the Committee on Policy and Coordination. I also urge our good friend, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to use this positive step towards further increasing normalization of Israel's status at the United Nations. We must continue to work with the U.N. Secretary General who has made pressing normalization an important goal of his tenure. The unfair treatment of Israel at the U.N. undermines the very principles the United Nations is meant to embody. The spectacle of repressive regimes conspiring to deny

Israel, the only democratic state in the Middle East, normal status at the U.N. undermines the broader fight on behalf of the human rights and democracy.

Madam Speaker, I would urge all of our colleagues to support this very important resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 624, which congratulates the State of Israel for chairing a United Nations committee for the first time in its history. This accomplishment is long overdue. Israel, as a fully democratic and sovereign state, should be entitled to all of the privileges and opportunities of any member state of the United Nations.

Unfortunately, the anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias that pervades the United Nations has long prevented Israel from fully participating in that body. To this day, Israel remains only a temporary member of the U.N.'s Western European and Others Group and is excluded from many consultations, discussions and leadership posts within the group and the U.N. itself.

The anti-Semitic, anti-Israel attitude shown by some members of the U.N. is unacceptable. It shames the principles of the United Nations. The United Nations has slowly begun to make progress in addressing this problem in restoring Israel to its rightful place at the U.N. However, there is much to be done, and this resolution calls upon U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to resolve this disgraceful problem. Until this happens, the United Nations will not live up to its own charter where the preamble states that the U.N. was founded "To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and nations large and small."

In addition, Madam Speaker, Israel's ability to finally chair a U.N. committee is a well-deserved accomplishment for Israel and a privilege and honor for a U.N. that has not done nearly enough.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague and longtime friend from the State of Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for introducing this resolution, and I urge its adoption.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Florida, the very distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee on Legislative and Budget Process and a leader for human rights and dignity around the world, author of the resolution before us, ALCEE HASTINGS, such time as he may consume.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I thank my friend from New York for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 624, a resolution that I introduced with my good friend and fellow cochair of the Democratic Israel Working Group, Representative GENE GREEN.

I first want to thank my very good friend and cosponsor of this resolution, who yielded time to me Representative ACKERMAN, for his steadfastness not only on these issues, but of issues of critical import for foreign affairs of these United States.

I would also like to thank the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, my good friend, Representative TOM LANTOS, and the ranking member of the committee and my colleague from Florida, Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for helping move this important bipartisan bill forward, and my longstanding good friend today who spoke favorably today of this measure. I thank Representative WILSON for his comments on this legislation and others, as well.

On June 19, 2007, for the first time ever in history a representative of the State of Israel was chosen to chair a United Nations committee. This resolution serves to properly mark this unique triumph for the State of Israel in our history books. The man chosen for this distinctive appointment at the United Nations is Mr. Ron Adam, the former director of the Israeli Foreign Ministry's U.N. Political Affairs Department. The committee he was chosen to chair is the Committee on Program and Coordination. This 33-U.N. member body provides an important role to the functioning of the United Nations, approving the work plan for all United Nations agencies and bodies.

Madam Speaker, since it first joined the United Nations in 1949, the democratic State of Israel has been considered a second-class nation at the United Nations, unfairly subjected to unjustified repeated one-sided attacks from other nations. To this day, Israel is still denied full representation within the United Nations and its constituent agencies and bodies. Meanwhile, other rogue and repressive regimes, in violation of United Nations human rights principles, are afforded full rights and privileges.

The United Nations should not and cannot continue to be a vehicle for unilateral attacks against Israel. Such dealings truly undermine the United Nations' credibility, integrity and effectiveness. Shamefully, anti-Semitic rhetoric and sentiment within the United Nations remains pervasive. Such statements are of grave concern to the United States and responsible nations.

I want to commend both past and present United Nations leaders for publicly recognizing and speaking out against the existence of blatant biases and injustices within the United Nations walls. Despite the targeted discrimination and unwarranted hate it faces within this international forum, Israel has consistently played an active

role within the United Nations. Israel already sits on several significant committees in the United Nations, and representatives from Israel have served as deputy chairs in the United Nations numerous times.

I am hopeful that Mr. Adam's appointment to chair the CPC will help normalize Israel's bilateral and multilateral relations. I am also hopeful, as has been expressed by Representative ACKERMAN and Representative WILSON, that Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon of the United Nations will work to end the unfair vilification of Israel at the United Nations and to use his good offices to support Israel's bid to join the Asian regional grouping. Finally, I am hopeful that Israel will be granted membership on the Security Council for 2019 and gain full participation rights in the United Nations.

I am but one member of this institution. I know I speak for GENE, who probably is en route here, who has some other feelings by virtue of our cosponsorship of this matter. I urge this administration, as GENE GREEN and I have and others, to do everything it can to see Israel's ascension in the United Nations.

Israel's new appointment is the beginning of a new dawn for the nation's status within the United Nations. I congratulate the government and people of the State of Israel for this great accomplishment, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important bipartisan legislation.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the gentlewoman from the First District of Nevada, a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and Ways and Means Committee, SHELLEY BERKLEY, for such time as she may consume.

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from the great State of New York and my good friend from the State of Florida for introducing this important resolution. For too long, dictators and despots have hijacked the United Nations in order to serve their own purposes. They cynically target Israel in order to shift attention from their own brutality, passing countless resolutions condemning Israel without uttering a word about what is going on in Burma, the Sudan or North Korea.

Madam Speaker, while we congratulate Israel today for a great achievement, I am still very worried the U.N.'s condemnations of Israel helped to stoke the fires of global anti-Semitism. For better or for worse, the world looks to the United Nations to set standards for human rights, and when instead it singles out Israel for constant recriminations, the U.N. becomes a platform for burgeoning anti-Semitism around the world and anti-Israel rhetoric. Last week I chaired the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue in my hometown of Las Vegas, Nevada. Among the many

issues we discussed with our friends from the European Parliament was the alarming rise of global anti-Semitism. Abe Foxman, the national director of the Anti-Defamation League briefed us on the widespread belief in the Muslim world that Israel and the Jews committed the 9/11 terrorist attack on this country. He told us about Malaysia, where there are no Jews, and yet where the president of that country blames the Jews for the economic problems in his country anyway.

In Europe, since 2000, there has been a surge of anti-Semitic incidents. Even here at home, a few misguided and uninformed people say the Jews are somehow responsible for the war in Iraq. I am extremely concerned about the rise of anti-Semitism globally, and it is not unrelated to what goes on at the United Nations. I am afraid the U.N.'s rhetoric serves as a great recruiting tool for terrorists and anti-Semites when it condemns Israel and uses old anti-Semitic canards to do it.

Madam Speaker, it is surely a step in the right direction that Israel is chairing a U.N. committee. We are right to congratulate Israel for this great achievement. It is about time. But so much more must be done as this resolution states. Today, with this resolution, we call on the United Nations to officially and publicly condemn anti-Semitic statements made at its meetings and hold United Nations member states accountable when they make such statements. We must fight back against the growing scourge of global anti-Semitism and growing anti-Israel rhetoric while we continue to fight for Israel's greater recognition at the United Nations.

I thank the gentleman from New York for his leadership on this issue, among many others.

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, as a cosponsor of H. Res. 624, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan resolution and urge its adoption.

For the first time in history, the State of Israel will serve as the chair of a United Nations Committee. We congratulate Mr. Ron Adam for his appointment as Chair of the U.N. Committee on Program and Coordination and wish him much success in this historic post.

While this appointment gives us hope of reform at the United Nations, other U.N. organs continue on a path of anti-Semitism with irrational vilification of the Jewish State.

In 2006, the United Nations took 135 actions against the State of Israel for alleged violations of human rights. By contrast, the U.N. took only 69 actions against Sudan—home to a genocide in Darfur—and only 23 actions against Iran, where the government is carrying out an ethnic cleansing campaign against its Baha'i minority.

In its first year of existence, the U.N. Human Rights Council passed 10 resolutions condemning Israel, while passing only one resolution condemning Sudan.

And we all remember the infamous U.N. "Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People" nearly 2 years ago when U.N. officials proudly displayed a map of the Middle East without the State of Israel.

For several years, I have worked with my colleagues to pressure U.N. members to end

their anti-Israel obsession. Israel's appointment to the U.N. Committee on Program and Coordination is the first fruit of our labor. But we know there is a long way to go to end anti-Semitism at the United Nations.

I want to thank my friend, Mr. HASTINGS, for introducing this important resolution, and Chairman LANTOS and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN for their continued leadership on this issue.

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Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I urge support of the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, urging all of our colleagues to vote for the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 624, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "A resolution congratulating the State of Israel on chairing a United Nations committee for the first time in history, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING SYRIA'S CONTINUED INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF LEBANON

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 738) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the Government of Syria's continued interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 738

Whereas in 2004, Lebanon's current president had his term extra-legally extended through the interference of Syria in Lebanon's internal affairs;

Whereas former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, the leading opponent of continued Syrian domination of Lebanon and the extra-legal extension of the president's term, was assassinated along with 22 people by a massive car bomb on February 14, 2005;

Whereas investigators from the United Nations have suggested that officials of Syria's government, at the highest levels, appear to be culpable for the assassination of Rafiq Hariri and the 22 other people;

Whereas the people of Lebanon, following the murder of Rafiq Hariri, engaged in a massive popular revolt known as the Cedar Revolution against Syrian interference in their internal affairs and suppression of their national sovereignty;

Whereas the Cedar Revolution, reinforced by international pressure, culminated in the rapid withdrawal of Syrian occupation forces and free elections;

Whereas the current Lebanese government has been under steady attack by domestic

and foreign forces that have been engaged in instigating riots and insurrection, suspending the operation of Lebanon's parliament, and perpetrating horrific acts of terror against the Lebanese people;

Whereas Syria and Iran are seeking to dominate Lebanon through their campaign of murder and intimidation aimed at the Lebanese parliamentary majority and other anti-Syrian public and political figures;

Whereas Syria and Iran, through their Lebanese proxies, have demanded the selection of another Lebanese president hand-picked by the Government of Syria;

Whereas Syria and Iran, in clear contravention of numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions, notably 1559 (2004), 1655 (2006), 1664 (2006), 1680 (2006), 1701 (2006), and 1757 (2007), have grossly violated Lebanon's sovereignty by continuing to provide arms to illegitimate Lebanese militias, Palestinian terrorist groups and other terrorist organizations; meddling in Lebanon's internal political affairs; and actively supporting efforts to prevent the election of a new president in accordance with Lebanese law; and

Whereas a sovereign and independent Lebanon is in the national security interest of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the campaign of murder, terror, and intimidation aimed at overthrowing the democratically-elected government of Lebanon and establishing a new Lebanese government subservient to the will and interests of Syria and Iran;

(2) condemns Syria and Iran for their gross interference in Lebanon's internal political affairs, and particularly, the selection of a new president, and gross violations of United Nations Security Council resolutions protective of Lebanon's sovereignty and independence;

(3) condemns Lebanese political parties and actors who have allied themselves with Syria and Iran to the detriment of their own country and its national interests;

(4) condemns efforts by some Lebanese political figures to obstruct, delay, and impede the legal and established processes of their country for the selection of a new president according to the rule of law;

(5) affirms its continued strong support for Lebanon's democratically-elected government, people and national sovereignty, and its readiness to provide material support;

(6) calls on all nations to recognize and support Lebanon's sovereignty and independence; and

(7) urges the President to use all peaceful means at the disposal of the United States to help safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and independence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolu-

tion, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, when the House last discussed Lebanon on September 25, I said that Lebanon was being bullied. That statement, though true, is insufficient. Lebanon is not being harassed by invisible unworldly forces. Lebanon is not a victim of fate or destiny or bad luck. Lebanese politicians and public figures, beginning with Rafiq Hariri and continuing to this day, are not being assassinated and blown away by falling meteors or volcanic eruptions. Arms do not appear in Lebanon by magic. Hezbollah's billions do not fall from the sky like rain. Palestinian terrorist groups don't find rifles falling out of trees or by the side of the road. The Fatah al-Islam and its war against the Lebanese state were not the product of spontaneous auto-genesis. Like maggots, their origin can escape the casual observer, but their birth was no accident or mystery.

Madam Speaker, Syria and Iran are responsible for these crimes. Syria and Iran are responsible for the chaos. Syria and Iran are to blame for the shadow of civil war that hangs over Lebanon. Lebanese politics are complex, and the interaction within and among confessions is daunting for the outside observer to contemplate. Where interest and principle merge and depart is hard to judge. But we know some things about Lebanon for certain, and they are spelled out clearly in the resolution at hand.

Despite Lebanon's Constitution, Syria demanded the extension of President Emile Lahoud's term in 2004, and Damascus got its way. The principal opponent of this grotesque intrusion into Lebanon's affairs was Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri. There is credible evidence uncovered by U.N. investigators showing that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad first threatened and then ordered the assassination of Rafiq Hariri for his defiance of Syrian diktat.

Madam Speaker, in response to the murder of Hariri, and, let us remember, 22 other civilians, the Lebanese rose up against their Syrian overlords and demanded, with the full support of the international community, the expulsion of Syria's occupational forces. A new government was formed through a free and fair election led by Lebanese not in the service of Syria and not in the debt of Iran.

This development, both surprising and hopeful, of a Lebanon free to chart its own course, was one that Syria and Iran couldn't tolerate. In their minds, Lebanon is a fiefdom, a toy. Lebanon is a playground for their ambitions and a canvas on which to splash their rage and hatred for the United States and Israel in the modern world.

Madam Speaker, Lebanon, in the minds of Syria's overlords and Iran's ayatollahs, is not for the Lebanese. This intolerance, this greedy self-interest, this bitter contempt for the rights of others is why we are speaking of Lebanon in the U.S. House of Representatives again today.